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Opium.—The levy of excise duties and licence fees on opium and the control of possession, transport and sale (excluding the control of cultivation, manufacture and sale for export) are entirely the concern of the Local Government.

Salt.—The subject is administered by the Local Government as agents of the Government of India.

Post and Telegraph offices and Telephones.—The Local Government exercise no control.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, certain subjects which are under the control of the Government of India are also described here as being under the control of this Government. Our trouble is that when any question is asked relating to these subjects, the answer that is given is that they do not primarily concern the Local Government."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I have always made it a principle that if a question is asked on a matter in which we are able to give information, I give the information. In certain matters we do have some control and over others we have none."

Salt.

Foreign salt.

*236 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state with reference to question No. 199 (page 237 of Volume XVI)—

(*a*) whether a large quantity of foreign salt is imported into India as ballast in British-owned ships ; and

(*b*) whether duty is imposed on such salt, and if so, what duty ?

A.—(*a*) So far as Madras Presidency is concerned, there have been no imports of foreign salt as ballast.

(*b*) Yes ; duty at the current rate of excise duty.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, this is a subject which is of some importance to this House. Seeing that a large quantity of salt is imported into India, it is natural that a Member of the House inquires whether this salt which is imported as ballast is taxed or not. As a matter of interest to us we would like to know if it is taxed."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" May I point out there is a definite answer to the question ? "

Constitution of districts, divisions, etc.

Proposed abolition of certain divisions, etc., in Cuddapah district.

*237 *Q.*—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the reasons adduced for the proposed abolition of one revenue division, two revenue taluks and two deputy tahsildar divisions in the Cuddapah district ?

A.—A memorandum [a] is annexed explaining the reasons for the changes which have been proposed as a measure of economy.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 636 infra.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" May I know whether the Government have received representation against the proposed economy ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice. I have no personal knowledge of it."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMACHARLU :—" May I ask whether the proposal is to have a division of the revenue taluks of Cuddapah, including Kamalapuram and also Rayachoti, and if so, will the Government tell us whether it would not be too large a division ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The proposal, Sir, has been published for criticism and any criticism that is received will be fully considered."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" In the memorandum published at page 31, the question has not been considered from the point of view of the people concerned. May I know when the Government have considered the question from the point of view of the people affected, whether they will tell us how the change would affect the people ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" These proposals are only proposals and do not represent the decision of the Government. The Government, before they come to a decision, will give the matter the fullest consideration."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" It is said in paragraph 5 of the memorandum that criminal work in all the courts is light. May I know if that is a correct statement ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is the statement placed before the Government in support of the proposals. The Government do not necessarily subscribe to it."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is it going to be denied that Cuddapah is a criminous district ? "

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Has Cuddapah alone been singled out for this economy or are there other districts which are going to share the same treatment ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Similar proposals have been received from elsewhere and they are being considered. I cannot now say how far they will be extended."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Is there one from Guntur ? May I know at what stage it is ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think hon. Members may withhold questions regarding other districts."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I am confining myself to Cuddapah, Sir. May I know if Government will be pleased to receive a deputation before they finally decide on this question ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Certainly, Sir, I shall be very pleased to hear anybody."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The statement is 'criminal work in all the courts is light and revenue work is not heavy.' Do I understand the hon. Member to say that the Government take no responsibility with regard to the accuracy of this statement as it stands ? "

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The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" The statement was based on the figures for first-class magistrates' courts."

Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu :—" What is the standard of heaviness, Sir ? "

Land Revenue.

Remissions of land revenue in Tanjore district.

* 238 *Q.*—Mr. V. Pantulu Ayyar : Will the hon the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received recommendations from the District Collector of Tanjore as regards remissions of land revenue ; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, the total acreage (wet and dry in separate figures) recommended and, if in the negative, whether Government have called for such recommendations ?

A.—(*a*) Proposals for season remissions are not submitted to Government. Jamabandi officers are competent to grant such remissions under the provisions of Board's Standing Order No. 13.

(*b*) The latest information is that the remission may amount to about 5 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to tell us what is the acreage in respect of which remissions are proposed to be granted ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" We have not the information, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I do not think it will be available till the end of the agricultural year."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" We are accustomed to wait. Will he be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I do not see any necessity to call for the information because it will be duly published at the end of the year."

Reprinting of the Board's Standing Orders, etc.

* 239 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandez : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to arrange for the reprint of (i) the Board's Standing Orders, vols. I and II, and (ii) Village Officers' and Loans Manuals before the end of the official year ?

A.—The Board's Standing Orders and the Madras Takkavi Manual are publications issued under the authority of the Board of Revenue. It is not proposed to reprint them now as the present editions are not overloaded with correction slips and there are a number of copies in stock. The Board of Revenue has under preparation a